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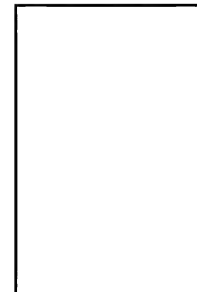
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Cease-Fire Developments



8 June 73

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Cause-Fine Developments

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Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome.
They may be directed to [redacted] of the Office of Current Intelligence,
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SOUTH VIETNAM

More Fighting

Military action increased from the very low levels of recent weeks in many parts of South Vietnam on 7-8 June, with both sides vying for greater control of territory in anticipation of some "new cease-fire" arrangement.

Most of the latest Communist-initiated action in the northern provinces has centered on Quang Ngai Province and included more than a dozen shellings and a ground attack. There is conflicting information on enemy moves in Kontum Province, but they hit the provincial capital with 50 shells and surrounded a nearby village. Communist incidents in the provinces surrounding Saigon more than doubled and included 13 ground contacts and 14 shellings. In the delta provinces, the Communists struck several territorial force outposts, and at least one has been abandoned.

Saigon's forces have also been busy. Clearing operations in the northern half of the country provoked numerous responses from the Communists, most resulting in small-scale skirmishes. The government operation to open Route 13 north of Saigon has bogged down as a result of stiff Communist resistance. South Vietnamese units conducted some 23 "security" operations in the delta with several reportedly accounting for heavy enemy losses.

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LAOS

Military Situation

Military activity remained at a generally low level throughout the country this past week. Most of the skirmishes were in the panhandle, where there were several small scale Communist attacks. Farther south, small units of both sides continued to vie for control of contested areas north of Seno and north and south of Muong Phalane. [REDACTED]

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Communist Negotiators Return

Two senior Lao Communist delegates that left in mid-May for consultations in Sam Neua returned to Vientiane on 8 June. They have not yet disclosed whether they came back with any new proposals. During their absence, leading Pathet Lao negotiator Phoumi Vongvichit took an uncompromising stance during frequent meetings with Prime Minister Souvanna and senior government negotiator Pheng Phongsavan. [REDACTED]

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Government forces made only slight headway on 8 June in reopening a section of Route 4 west of Phnom Penh between Thnal Totung and Ang Snuol. Although isolated, Ang Snuol apparently is not being seriously threatened by the Khmer Communists. Another squadron of armored personnel vehicles from Phnom Penh has been assigned to the clearing operation. Some Cambodian troops remained pinned down by the Communists in a sugar factory a few miles south of Thnal Totung near the enemy-occupied village of Kompong Tram on Route 26. Route 5 was reopened to traffic between Phnom Penh and Battambang on 8 June when a 150-truck convoy traversed this section without incident. A smaller convoy from Kompong Chhnang City reached Phnom Penh unmolested on the same day.

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